

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

Enclosed herewith is a PTO-1449 listing some new references recently cited against this case by the German Patent Office.

The claims have been amended to define the invention with somewhat greater particularity over the art. Claim 1 in particular now describes how the board 1 is formed with a plurality of the slots 2 on its face turned away from the curved surface on which it is mounted, and how the various circuit element are mounted on this outer face between and offset from the recesses. Thus with this arrangement the circuit board can conform to even strongly curved surfaces with no damage to the circuit elements.

New claim 7 describes how the traces are on the inner face of the board, and new claim 8 describes how they are on the outer face but include flexible bridge conductors over the recesses.

EP 0,534,290 of Munzberg discloses a circuit board with a single recess and no information regarding where the circuit

elements or traces might be, or which side the recess is on. Thus amended claim 1 clearly distinguishes over this reference.

In US 6,166,698 of Turnbull FIG. 3 does not show a flexible circuit board. Instead the planar circuit board is mounted on a curved surface via a spongy layer 72 that fills in between the circuit board and the surface. Thus this reference teaches away from this invention.

US 6,762,562 of Leong relates to a tubular light fixture where a large number of LED's are mounted on a tubular core (FIG. 3) and received in a tube. There is no teaching of forming the core with an array of recesses so it can be deformed into the desired tubular shape; instead it apparently is preformed in this shape. The little flat elements in FIG. 3 under each LED are apparently parts of the LED's, not part of a circuit board.

Thus there is no showing in the art of forming multiple recesses or grooves (see new claim 9) on an outer face of a circuit board so it can be conformed to a curved support surface. The claims are allowable under §102 and §103 over the cited art.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this

case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

K.F. Ross P.C.

/Andrew Wilford/

by: Andrew Wilford, 26,597
Attorney for Applicant

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5683 Riverdale Avenue Box 900
Bronx, NY 10471-0900
Cust. No.: 535
Tel: 718 884-6600
Fax: 718 601-1099
Email: email@kfrpc.com

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